

**House Agriculture and Resource Management  
Committee**

**Statement by Michigan Pork Producers Association**

**On**

**HB 5711, HB 5712, HB 5713, HB 5714, HB 5715, HB 5716**

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Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) administers programs in promotion, marketing, research and education that are financed by Michigan's 2,000 pork producers and monitors public policy issues affecting the pork industry.

MPPA members represent all sizes and types of operations from youngsters with 4-H and FFA project animals to Michigan's largest family-owned pork facilities and virtually every size of production system in between. The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is important to all of them.

Pork producers, through their industry organizations, have worked very hard to achieve a well deserved reputation for developing proactive environmental improvement programs. In fact, the pork industry was the first to develop environmental strategy programs that promoted innovative management practices. This has been coupled with an ongoing commitment from producers to fund millions of dollars of science-based environmental research and to voluntarily assess their operations for environmental challenges. Many Michigan pork producers had their operations assessed through the pork industry's environmental assurance program before MAEAP was developed. MPPA was an initial contributor to MAEAP and continues to support the effort as an active partner.

MPPA and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), of which MPPA is a state affiliate, have assumed active roles in advocating at both the state and federal levels for environmental initiatives that are achievable, sustainable, affordable and scientifically based. Certainly, the MAEAP program meets these objectives. MPPA believes the MAEAP program offers an innovative method for maximizing environmental protection and continues to encourage all pork producers to become verified under the MAEAP Livestock System. In fact, MPPA is proud to note that nearly 40 percent of the MAEAP verified livestock farms are pork production operations.

Pork producers remain committed to doing everything they can to produce in a manner that minimizes environmental impact and they realize that the MAEAP program is designed to help them achieve this objective.

However, despite producers' support of MAEAP and their best efforts to produce in an environmentally sustainable manner, they have become increasingly frustrated by environmental regulation that is a constantly moving target. House Bills 5711 through 5716 will provide producers the regulatory stability needed to protect their operations and grow jobs in Michigan. Agriculture is the second largest industry in Michigan with an economic impact exceeding \$60 billion. Pork production is a significant contributor to Michigan's agricultural economy with the market value of hogs sold approximating \$250 million annually. Economic studies indicate in excess of \$300 million of personal income and \$350 million of gross state product are also supported by the pork industry. To allow Michigan producers to compete globally in this rapidly changing industry, it is imperative that environmental regulations provide a measure of stability.

MPPA strongly supports passage of House Bills 5711 through 5716. MPPA believes these bills provide the best opportunity for enhancing environmental protection and growing jobs in Michigan and ask for your favorable consideration of this legislative package.